

Message Text

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TAGS: BQG WB GE GW
SUBJ: STOBBE, OTHER POLITICIANS AIR VIEWS ON EXFILTRATION

SUMMARY: IN THE WAKE OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE KURATORIUM UNTEILBARES DEUTSCHLAND IN BERLIN AT WHICH THE SUBJECT OF EXFILTRATION WAS EXTENSIVELY DISCUSSED AND STATEMENTS BY FRG THAT IT WILL ACT AGAINST EXFILTRATORS, SEVERAL BERLIN AND FRG POLITICAL LEADERS HAVE COMMENTED PUBLICLY IN BERLIN ON THE ISSUE. ALL ACCEPT THE BASIC FACT, EXPRESSLY SPELLED OUT BY BERLIN FDP BUNDESTAG DEPUTY HANS GUENTER HOPPE THAT THE ROOT CAUSE FOR EXFILTRATION LIES IN THE GDR'S RESTRICTIVE EMIGRATION POLICIES. WITH FEW EXCEPTIONS, HOWEVER, MOST OBSERVERS HAVE RECOGNIZED THAT COMMERCIAL EXFILTRATION ACTIVITIES POSE A REAL THREAT TO BERLIN'S TRANSIT WAYS. END SUMMARY.

1. AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE KURATORIUM UNTEILBARES DEUTSCHLAND (TRUSTEESHIP FOR AN INDIVISABLE GERMANY)
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IN BERLIN MARCH 3-4 NUMEROUS SPEAKERS, INCLUDING FRG MINISTER FOR INNER GERMAN AFFAIRS EGON FRANKE (SPD), ADDRESSED THE ISSUE OF EXFILTRATION (FLUCHTHILFE) FROM THE GDR. TAKING A BEARISH POSITION ON THE SUBJECT, FRANKE POINTED OUT THAT THE FRG CONTINUES TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT THE PROPER FUNCTIONING OF THE TRANSIT TRAFFIC AGREEMENT WITH THE GDR BECAUSE "COMMERCIAL EXFILTRA-

TION ORGANIZATIONS ABUSE THE AGREEMENT AND HAVE CAUSED EXTENSIVE CHECKS OF TRAVELLERS BY GDR AUTHORITIES." FRANKE APPEALED TO "ALL THOSE CONCERNED" TO "RESPECT THE TRANSIT AGREEMENT FOR THE SAKE OF THE 2 MILLION WEST BERLINERS AND THEIR FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT." FRANKE ADMITTED THAT THE LEGAL POSSIBILITIES OF THE FRG TO STOP COMMERCIAL EXFILTRATORS WAS LIMITED. ON THE OTHER HAND, HE SAID, THE FRG COULD NOT IGNORE THE VITAL INTERESTS OF BERLINERS AND WOULD TAKE THOSE STEPS NECESSARY TO ACT AGAINST THE HANDFUL OF EXFILTRATORS WHOSE ACTIONS COULD ENDANGER FREE ACCESS TO THE CITY.

2. IN AN INTERVIEW WITH THE BERLINER MORGENPOST, BERLIN'S FDP BUNDESTAG MEMBER HANS GUENTER HOPPE MADE MANY OF THE SAME POINTS AS FRANKE AND ADDED THAT EXFILTRATION WAS A NATURAL CONSEQUENCE OF THE DIVISION OF GERMANY; THE ONLY WAY IT WILL BE ELIMINATED IS WHEN THE DIVISION OF GERMANY IS ELIMINATED. UNTIL THEN, HOWEVER, HOPPE CONCLUDED, THE FRG CAN ONLY FIGHT EXFILTRATION RINGS IF AND WHEN THEY VIOLATE FRG LAWS AS WHEN THEY FALSIFY DOCUMENTS.

3. LATEST PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE SUBJECT WAS OFFERED BY GOVERNING MAYOR STOBBE ON MARCH 7, WHEN HE CALLED FOR STRONG ACTION AGAINST EXFILTRATION RINGS SINCE COMMERCIAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CIAL EXFILTRATORS APPEAR FAR LESS CONCERNED WITH THE HUMANITARIAN ASPECT OF THEIR ACTIVITIES THAN THEY ARE WITH MAKING A PROFIT, OFTEN TO THE DETRIMENT OF THE INDIVIDUALS THEY ARE SUPPOSED TO SMUGGLE TO THE WEST.

4. COMMENT: ISSUE OF EXFILTRATION CONTINUES TO PRESENT BERLINERS WITH DILEMMA; ALMOST NO ONE HERE WISHES TO DENY GDR CITIZENS OPPORTUNITY TO ESCAPE TO THE WEST. AT THE SAME TIME, MOST BERLINERS ARE EXTREMELY SENSITIVE TO FACT THAT UNLESS COMMERCIAL EXFILTRATION ON TRANSIT ROUTES IS BROUGHT UNDER CONTROL, THEIR LIFELINE TO THE WEST, BERLIN'S TRANSIT ROUTES, WILL COME UNDER EVER INCREASING PRESSURE FROM GDR. (THERE ARE EXCEPTIONS; BERLIN CDU CAUCUS LEADER HEINRICH LUMMER CONTINUES TO ARGUE PUBLICLY THAT EXFILTRATION PER SE IS NOT ILLEGAL, LEAVING OPEN THE QUESTION WHETHER WEST BERLIN OR FRG AUTHORITIES SHOULD TAKE ACTION TO CURTAIL THE COMMERCIAL RINGS.) THOUGHTFUL AND MODERATE POSITION TAKEN BY INDIVIDUALS LIKE HOPPE, AND CLEAR REMINDER BY STOBBE THAT COMMERCIAL EXFILTRATORS ARE MOTIVATED BY SOMETHING LESS LAUDIBLE THAN HUMANITARIAN MOTIVES WILL

ULTIMATELY MAKE IT EASIER FOR FRG AND WEST BERLIN
AUTHORITIES TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST PROFESSIONAL RINGS
OPERATING OUT OF BERLIN AND ON THE TRANSIT ROUTES. GEORGE

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